Appointment of Joint Secretaries of Government of India

575. Dr. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer given to Unstarred Question 1294 in the Rajya Sabha on 30th April, 1987 and state:

(a) what are the pay scales which are taken into account for empanelment for the post of Joint Secretary of the Government of India; and

(b) what is the total number of persons who have been appointed as Joint Secretaries in the Government of India during the last five years alongwith their length of service and pay scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Officers of Central Group 'A' Services are normally considered for empanelment as Joint Secretary, when at least one of the officers of a particular batch has been promoted to hold Level-II post (Scale Rs 2250-2500) (Pre-revised) in the Cadre. The whole batch is then considered for such empanelment irrespective of whether all the officers of the batch have actually been promoted to Level-II posts or not.

(b) 515 officers were appointed as Joint Secretaries in Government of India during the period from 1983 to 1987 (upto October). Appointments to these posts are made keeping in view the qualifications/experience etc required for the job and the availability of eligible officers in the field of choice. Suitability for a particular post rather than seniority is the determining factor in making such appointments.

Vacancies of Judges in High Courts

576. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in the various State High Courts till October, 1987;

(b) by when will these vacancies be filled up; and

(c) reasons for delay in filling up of these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) As on 31st October, 1987, there were 50 vacancies in the total sanctioned strength of 442 Judges in various High Courts of the country. High Court wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement. (See Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 12). Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the Chief Justice, the Governor of the State and the Chief Justice of India; this takes time as the effort is to appoint the most suitable persons as Judges.

It is not possible to indicate the time by when these vacancies will be filled.

Pension/Gratuity for retired officer of Punjab

577. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether pension/gratuity dues of Shri D.N. Kashyap, A.I.G. Prison, Punjab who retire on 30th September, 1979; have been settled and paid to him; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether any representations in this regard dated 11th June, 1987 and 6th July, 1987 were received by Government;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) if no action has been taken the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) Shri D. N. Kashyap is a retired officer of the Government of Punjab and pension/gratuity is to be sanctioned by the Government of Punjab.

Agreement with Burmese Foreign Minister on maritime boundaries, citizenship etc.

578. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the decisions taken in September last during the talks with the Burmese Foreign Minister regarding delimitation of land maritime boundaries, pensioners' liabilities, compensation of Indian assets in Burma, citizenship for about 2 lakh people of Indian origin in Burma and Joint action against cross-border insurgency; and

(b) the plan and time schedule alongwith the targets fixed and the follow up action of the decisions so taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on Delimitation of the Maritime boundary in the Andaman Sea, Coco Channnel and the Bay of Bengal signed in Rangoon in December 1986 were exchanged. With this, the Agreement has come into force.

Discussions were also held on the Land boundary. Both sides felt that demarcation of the balance of 106 miles of the total 192 miles of common boundary between the two countries should be completed as soon as possible.

The question of outstanding pensionary liabilities of ex-employees of the Government of Burma, payment of compensation to Indians and Indian organisations whose assets were nationalised in the sixties, and the grant of citizenship of about 2 lakh stateless persons of Indian origin in Burma were also discussed. The Burmese Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that these issues would be considered by them at an early date. Cooperation in the control of cross-border insurgency was also discussed.

(b) The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burma had come to India on a goodwill visit and to exchange Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on the Delimination of the Maritime Boundary. No plans, time schedules or targets were specifically laid down.

Foreign Military bases in Pakistan

579. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India dated 13th October, 1987 to the effect that foreign military facilities and bases are active in Pakistan and some of these have been in existence for the last four decades;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have been keeping an eye over those bases; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?